

FINAL (4-20-05)

Meeting Notes

Working Group Subgroup Meeting 4/7/05 to Consider
Action Items for Improving Community Representation and Involvement in
Remaining Program Implementation Vasquez Boulevard- I70 Superfund Program

Prepared by: George Weber, WG Facilitator

With contributions from:

Pat Courtney and Jennifer Chergo, Region VIII EPA Community Relations

George Weber began the meeting by asking about the process we wanted the meeting to take. He suggested that we try following the same process for considering the specific 'Suggested Actions Recommendations for Achieving Additional Community Representation and Involvement in VB-I70 Superfund Site Clean-up' ('action items') that he suggested to the Working Group Meeting on March 31, 2005. He reviewed the brief proposal for how to proceed on considering the list of 35 action items again. (The action items were developed during the previous week, during the Working Group meeting, and immediately afterwards, through bilateral conversations he had with community leaders (e.g., primarily Anthony Thomas, Lorraine Granado, Joan Hooker, Beverly Lumumba), EPA Program Manager Victor Ketellapper, CDPHE Program Manager Barbara O'Grady, and the Community Health Program (CHP) Coordinators Martha Huff and Jay Salas.

Jennifer Chergo thought we should first talk about what the mission and goals of the today's sub-group were. She suggested that the sub-group be a permanent subcommittee, focus on community involvement in the Community Health Program, and that it meet regularly.

George, referring to the agenda suggested for the day and the Suggested Action Recommendations, indicated that today's agenda was intended to address the over-arching issue of community involvement in all of the VB-I70 program components holistically and comprehensively – that it was not limited to just the Community Health Program.

Some discussion revolved around this issue and the group agreed that they wanted to be fully involved in the Community Health Program and involved in the decision making process. Furthermore, they agreed to:

- Make the subcommittee permanent;
- Have as its focus as achieving community involvement in the CHP;
- Participate in a conference call once per month; and
- Meet once a month.

Joan Hooker asked that VB-I70 Program meetings (e.g., Working Group, CI-CHP, other) be held in the Clayton community.

Lorraine Granado commented that participants in meetings must act respectful to other participants and strive for consensus in decision-making.

Joan agreed with Lorraine on the need for achieving broad representation of neighborhoods and residents in meetings, and for mutually respectful behavior among meeting participants, and striving for consensus.

The group discussed this issue and seemed to achieve consensus on the need for achieving broader representation of the different neighborhoods and residents, and specifically, rotating Program meeting at different locations in each of the neighborhoods addressed by the VB-I70 Program.

Lorraine reiterated the issues discussed during the 3-31-05 Working Group meeting section addressing community involvement that preceded consideration of the specific action items, the purpose of the current meeting.

Lorraine then brought up problems with using youth groups to accomplish outreach activities.

The group discussed this issue and seemed to achieve consensus that the CHP could use neighborhood youth groups but that they needed appropriate training and adult supervision (e.g., 1 adult staff supervising 10 youth).

Anthony Thomas asked that whatever youth groups do – that “it goes through this group”, i.e., the newly formed CHP- Community Involvement Subcommittee.

The group seemed to agree on this suggestion also.

Martha Huff noting she was doing a ‘180 degree turn’ raised the issue of involving community members in review of CHP materials.

Beverly Tafoya-Dominguez asked who would be in this group or subcommittee. Community representatives Anthony Thomas, Joan Hooker, and Gloria Schearer were identified.

Jay Salas indicated that he wanted the Community Health Workers (CHW) involved in this review group.

Lorraine and Jennifer brought up the external lead based paint abatement issue.

Jennifer suggested that time be allocated in the next Working Group meeting agenda for EPA toxicologists to attend and make a presentation on issues related to the method proposed for determining the eligibility of residences for abatement, including the original sampling design, and potential for hot spots, including in the area adjacent to the structure.

Anthony brought the discussion back to the material review group and time and place for meeting. The discussion revolved around conducting this meeting in conjunction with the weekly Friday afternoon CHW meetings.

Consensus seemed to be achieved that the group would meet for the first time just prior to the CHW meeting at 11:00 a.m. on the next day, Friday, April 8 at the Curtis Park location.

George, noting the time and that the group was now addressing the specifics on the list of action items, suggested that the group work through the list in order to try consider all 35 action items today in the time remaining.

The ensuing discussion did not attack the list from beginning to end in sequence, but jumped around.

In order to try to document the decisions achieved by the group, the attached notes addressing the action items are organized to describe briefly:

- Decisions made on a specific action intended to improve community representation and involvement in remaining VB0-I70 Program implementation (e.g., accepted, rejected, or tabled; actions, who will do it, by when);
- Other proposed action items from the hand-out of action items encompassed under a specific action item; and
- Bullets of comments made by meeting participants in discussing the specific action item.

In summary, it appears that the group achieved agreement on all action items, with the following exceptions:

- Moving Steering Committee meetings to sites within the community is tabled as the EPA and CDPHE Site Managers did not participate in this meeting. However, probably the meetings will continue to be conducted at the Webb Building downtown because the meeting focuses primarily on the logistics of Program implementation, and more so, because it seems unfeasible to obtain the required participation of medical staff away from the current meeting site which is near their offices. Agreement was achieved on several specific actions that could improve community involvement in these meetings, however.
- Several Action Items relating to Lead Based Paint Abatement were 'tabled', and suggested for inclusion in the agenda of the next Working Group meeting scheduled for May 19, 2005.

At the meeting conclusion, the group decided to convene as the newly formed CHP-Community Health Program Subcommittee in a:

- Conference call at 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., on Thursday, April 21, 2005; and

- Meeting at 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., on Thursday, May 12, 2005, at the Swansea Recreation Center.

George congratulated the group for working through and making decisions on all 35 specific Action Items for improving community representation and involvement in remaining VB-170 Program implementation. The group made particular progress during the last hour of the meeting.